IN common usage we have in France several sorts and fashionings of letters: first, the *Cadeaulx,* which are used at the beginning of books written by hand and at the beginning of verses also written by hand. These *Cadeaulx* must be higher than the letters on the line which follow them, by a fourth of the height, and for this reason they are called *Cadeaulx,* as who should say *Quadreaulx,* that is, they must be adjusted to the quarter [quart] of the lineal letters in the text.* The teachers of writing embellished & enriched them with foliage, faces, birds & a thousand pretty things, at their pleasure, to show what they could do. Sigismund Fante, a noble Ferrarian, in his book entitled *Thesauro De Scrittori,*† has drawn them in excellent proportions, if not that they are a little too thin & starved-looking. I set them down for you here in their usual shape and without labelling them; if you wish to embellish them, do it at your pleasure.

IN like manner we have the *Lettre de Forme,* which must be five times as high as it is broad, as in the I and the other letters made from I. The long letters b, d, f, h, k, l, p, q, ſ, t, x, & z must be seven times as high as they are wide, which rule the said Sigismund Fante did not sufficiently well observe in his book, for he makes them too long and thin.

IN addition to the *Lettre de Forme,* we have the *Lettre Bastarde,* which is of almost the same nature as the said *Lettre de Forme,* if not that it is thinner and is to be made only as small letters. The said Sigismund has chosen to make it in his book by squares and circles; but he has erred therein by making it too starved and thin, and by splitting the top and the tail of the long letters into two points.

WE have, too, the *Lettre Tourneure,* with which the ancients wrote epitaphs upon the tombs of the departed. They wrote them also on glass, and on tapestries, as we can see in many old monasteries; but to-day printers use them at the beginning of their books and chapters.

IN printing there are many diverse shapes of letters, like the *Lettre de Forme* which is called Canon, & *Lettre Bastarde* with which books have always been printed in France heretofore; there are the *Lettre Ronde, Lettre Bourgeoise, Lettre de Sommes, Lettre Romaine, Lettre Grecque, Lettre Hebraique,* and the *Lettre Aldine,* which is called Aldine because it was introduced by Aldus, the noble Roman printer who once lived and printed in Venice. It is graceful because it is thin, as the Greek small letter is, but not the capital.

* *Quilz doibvent quadrer & accorder du quart a leur lettre Lineaire & Textuaire.*

† *See Note 27.*

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